

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 010955
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 010955

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM VELIOTES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: US VISIT BY PRESIDENT SARKIS

REF: BEIRUT 0177

1. WE DISCUSSED REFTTEL WITH ROY ATHERTON, WHO IS INCLINED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO A BRIEF US VISIT BY SARKIS. HE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION THAT SARKIS COME TO WASHINGTON FOR VISIT WHICH WOULD ENTAIL ONLY THE MINIMUM USE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TIME. A STATE OR OFFICIAL VISIT WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT A ONE-DAY WORKING VISIT, A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND AN OVERNIGHT STAY AT BLAIR HOUSE MIGHT BE FEASIBLE.

2. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE BEST ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE FOR SARKIS TO HAVE A REASON FOR GOING TO THE US OTHER
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THAN TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT (E.G. TO VISIT THE LEBANESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY).

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THINKING ON THE ABOVE BEFORE WE GO FORWARD. PLEASE DO NOT REPEAT NOT MENTION THIS TO BOUTROS AS A RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR AN INFORMAL SOUNDING. THAT COULD COME LATER, AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR COMMENTS

AND AFTER ROY HAS HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT WITH THE SECRETARY.
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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